

Message Text

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62

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-03 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-03 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

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INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, FI

SUBJECT: SAK SUCCESSION

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REF: HELSINKI 1751

1. IT IS NOW CERTAIN THAT FINNISH TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (SAK) THIRD CHAIRMAN PEKKA OIVIO (SOCIAL DEMOCRAT) WILL SUCCEED PRESENT SAK CHAIRMAN NILO HAMALAINEN DECEMBER 1. SAK EXECUTIVE BOARD WILL MEET OCTOBER 21 TO MAKE FORMAL DECISION. MOVING INTO OIVIO'S THIRD CHAIRMAN POSITION WILL PROBABLY BE PAPERWORKERS' UNION CHAIRMAN VEIKKO AHTOLA, A LONG-TIME POWER IN FINNISH LABOR MOVEMENT. AHTOLA, WHO IS A VETERAN NEGOTIATOR, WILL PLAY MAJOR ROLE IN DIFFICULT MID-TERM RENEGOTIATION OF CURRENT 22-MONTH COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT THIS WINTER.

2. NEITHER OIVIO -- WHO WILL TURN 56 NOVEMBER 24 -- NOR AHTOLA SOUGHT HEAVY BURDEN OF SAK CHAIRMANSHIP. MAJOR FACTOR IN OIVIO'S ULTIMATE DECISION TO ACCEPT WAS REPORTEDLY AHTOLA'S ASSURANCE THAT HE WOULD TAKE THIRD CHAIRMAN POSITION AND SHARE THE NEGOTIATING RESPONSIBILITY. OIVIO HAS PROMISED TO SERVE ONLY UNTIL SAK CONVENTION IN JUNE 1976; BUT IF AHTOLA CONTINUES TO BLOCK METALWORKERS' CHAIRMAN SULO PENTTILA'S PATH TO SAK LEADERSHIP AND NO OTHER STRONG CANDIDATE EMERGES OIVIO MAY WELL CONTINUE AS CHAIRMAN FOR SEVERAL YEARS.

3. WHEN ELECTED CHAIRMAN, OIVIO WILL GIVE UP BOTH OF HIS OTHER CURRENT POSITIONS. IT IS EXPECTED HE WILL BE SUCCEEDED AS CHAIRMAN OF FINNISH RAILWAY ENGINEERS' UNION BY ILKKA ERICH, THE UNION'S CHIEF SECRETARY. FUTURE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE FEDERATION OF SALARIED EMPLOYEES AND WORKERS (VTY -- WHICH GROUPS SAK UNIONS IN STATE SECTOR) IS NOT YET CLEAR. HOUSTON

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